

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 8 are amended. Claims 2-7 are canceled. Claims 2 and 8 are pending in the application.

Claims 1-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kross (U.S.Patent No. 6664301). As amended, independent claim 1 recites defined branched gelatin polymer, electrolyte gelatin polymer, skin communication enhancer, natural biomaterial and functional additive in the specified amounts. The amendment to claim 1 incorporates the subject matter of claims 2-7. Claims 2-7 are appropriately canceled. Each of independent claims 1 and 8 are amended to recite transformation to a fluid state at a temperature of 30-50°C. This amendment is supported by the specification at the Example. The amount as claimed of each element in the recited composition is needed to achieve the technical result as set forth in the Example. Amounts outside the recited scope do not achieve the technical result.

When the hydrogel sheet or patch of the invention is applied to the skin, hydrogel is transformed from the gel state into the fluid state due to the body temperature. A viscosity variance of the hydrogel composition in the present invention was measured as a function of temperature and the results are shown in Fig. 1. From Fig. 1 it can be seen that the hydrogel composition has significantly reduced viscosity with an increase in temperature (particularly at 30-50°C), thereby being transformed into a fluid

state. Meanwhile, Kross does not indicate a conversion of the hydrogel or transformation to a fluid state at 30-50°C. Nor does Kross disclose methodology for producing such a hydrogel. Accordingly, claims 1 and 8 are not rendered obvious by Kross and are allowable over this reference.

For the reasons discussed above, claims 2 and 8 are allowable. Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests formal allowance of claims 2 and 8 in the Examiner's next action.

Respectfully submitted,

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